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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/712,360	11/13/2003	Miguel A. Guerra	59393US002	1425
32692	7590	07/14/2006	EXAMINER	
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY			TRUONG, DUC	
PO BOX 33427			ART UNIT	
ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			PAPER NUMBER	
			1711	

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's election of Group I, claims 1-7 and 9-17 and the bisamidine group in claim 11 and 17 as elected species in the reply filed on 4/24/06 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7 and 9-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0422231 in view of EP 1238999, both of record on 1449.

EP 0422231 discloses a polytriazine produced from polyimidoylamidine (see page 2, lines 5-6) or the claimed bisamidine (see page 3, formula (4)) with a polymer comprising a fluorinated backbone and a pendent group, such as carbonyl halide (see page 4, line 12; page 18, lines 30-44; page 21, lines 1-35).

The disclosure of the reference differs from the instant claims in that it neither disclose the pendent sulfonyl fluoride group in claim 7 nor the bisamidine compound in claim 11 nor the converting step from sulfonyl halide to sulfonic acid group.

However, the reference does disclose the use of a bisamidine, as stated above in that Rfo can be considered C₄H₈ and the acyl fluoride, as stated above, having the same functionality with sulfonyl halide.

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EP 1238999 discloses the fluorinated polymers in that the acyl fluoride and sulfonyl fluoride have the same functionality (see page 4, [0027], claims 7-9) and the step of converting the sulfonyl group into sulfonic acid group (see page 12, claim 20, step (b)). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select the sulfonyl halide from the reference to replace the acyl halide in the claims, based on functionality, and including the step of converting the sulfonyl halide group into the sulfonic acid group from the reference into the claims in order to gain the advantages of the combination of the references, that being hydrophilic membranes having the ionic conductivity and a water permeability.

The EP 0422231 discloses polytriazine produced from fluorinated acyl fluoride with bisamidine.

The EP 1238999 provides evidence that fluorinated acyl halide and fluorinated sulfonyl halide have the same functionality.


The replacement of said sulfonyl halide by acyl halide, as disclosed in EP 1238999, in the polytriazine of EP 0422231, to have the added properties, would not provide an unexpected result to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc Truong whose telephone number is 571-272-1081. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on 571-272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



DUCTRUONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER